excess production of FCV tobacco in the country, lower international prices, and uncertainty about Russian purchaser, there was a decline in the prices of FCV tobacco compared to last year.

(b) to (d) The shere of purchases by domestic manufacturers in the overall sales, the average prices paid by them and the percentage by which average price paid by manufacturers exceeded overall avarage price during the last 3 years are given below :—

Auction	Total Crop marketed		Purchases by Manufacturers		% share of total Quantity Marketed	% by which Av. Pr. paid by Mfrs. exceeded overall Av. Price
	Qty. (M. kg.)	Av. Pr. (Rs./kg.)	Qty. (M. kg.)	Av. Pr. (Rs./kg.)		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
ANDHRA PRADESH						
1993	125.60	20.75*	56.93	24.70	45.32	19.03
1992	132.78	27.63	45.52	31.06	34.28	12.41
1991	89.17	33.00	39.29	35.22	44.06	6.72
KARNATAKA						
1992-93	33.24	26.52	12.08	30.95	36.34	16.70
1991-92	26.41	42.13	8.66	45.34	32.79	7.61
1990-91	20.32	26.44	7.09	30.99	34.89	17.20

(*Provisional)

As part of their business strategy, domectic manufacturers buy a part of their requirement of tobacco from dealers operating on the auction floors. However, they do not indicate the quantities they intend to buy from dealers and the names of such dealers/suppliers in respect of any auction season.

Cigarettes sold in the Country

2136. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of cigarettes sold in India annually;

(b) what is their value; and

(c) what is the gross and net profits released by the manufacturers during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPTT. OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT) WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPTT. OF HEAVY INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) and (b) The information is not centrally maintained.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Deletion of some Items from the Negative List

2137. SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether some items of imports have been deleted from the negative list recently;

(b) if so, the names of those items with the reasons for the deletion;

(c) whether import norms have also been revised for some items;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the above measures would be help to earn good amount of foreign exchange; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMERS AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the last three months, Muriate of Potash (MOP), Mono Ammonium Phosphate (MAP) and Sulphate of Potash (SOP) have been removed from the canalised List of Imports. Gentamycin Sulphate, Cassia and Cinnamon have been deleted from the Negative List of Imports. This has been done with a view to making available these items at competitive prices in the domestic market.

(c) to (f) Yes, Sir. Norms for 232 more export products have been notified and now there are 2444 standardised norms for grant of licences under Duty Exemption Scheme. These measures have been taken to further encourage export of value added products, thereby earning more foreign exchange for the country.

Cell for Prompt Redressal of Exporters Problems

2138. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some special cell for prompt redressal of exporters problems has been set up with immediate effect;

(b) if so, the details thereof with functions assigned to this cell and the reasons for setting up the cell;

(c) whether some time bound programme for redressal of exporters problems has been drawn up; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMERS AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) An Exporters Redressal Cell has been formed to entertain and monitor disposal of suggestions and difficulties of exporters to facilitate early action on such issues.

(c) and (d) As many of the issues raised require inter-Ministerial consultation and approvals a specific time limit for redressal cannot be prescribed. However, the position is being regularly monitored and efforts are being made to resolve the problems expeditiously.

Amount released under IPRS

2139. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount released by the Finance Ministry to the Commerce Ministry from April 1st, 1992 to 31st March, 1993 for compensating engineering and other exporters under International Price Reimbursement Scheme (IPRS);

(b) what was the balance amount due for payment under IPRS as on 1st April, 1993 and as on 30th June, 1993;

(c) whether it is a fact that the full I.P.R.S. amounts are not paid to the exporters for several months;

(d) whether representations have been received from various exporters organisations including EEPC of the serious impediments to continuing the present level of exports and earning foreign exchange due to delay by Government in releasing funds under I.P.R.S; and

(e) by when Government expects to fully reimburse various exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The total amount released from Market Development Fund of the Ministry of Commerce during 1992-93 for IPRS was Rs. 54 crores.

(b) IPRS claims pending for want of funds as on 29-3-93 and 28-6-93 were Rs. 169 crores and Rs. 252 crores respectively.

(c) There has recently been some delay in payment of claims under IPRS due to shortage of funds to finance IPRS.

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) The Government has initiated several measures including providing additional funds for the scheme to expedite clearance of pending claims.